United Nations S/2017/986

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 November 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Letters dated 22 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the President of the 148th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level and on behalf of the Group of Arab States in New York, I have the honour to write to you in implementation of paragraphs 12 and 13 of resolution No. 8218 concerning Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States (see annex), which was adopted on 19 November 2017 by the Council of the League at the ministerial level in an extraordinary session that was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Djibouti. In that resolution, the Council of the League instructs the Group to contact you in your capacity as the President of the Security Council and inform you that Iran has violated Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), which concerns that country's ballistic missile programme. The Group was furthermore instructed to inform you that, contrary to Iranian claims that the programme is of a defensive nature, this offensive programme presents a grave threat to Arab national security. Moreover, the Council of the League wishes to inform you that Iran has violated Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) by arming terrorist militias in Yemen, and that it considers the firing of an Iranian-made ballistic missile from Yemeni territory at the city of Riyadh to be an act of aggression by Iran and a threat to Arab and international security and peace. In view of the above, the Council of the League calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed Siad **Doualeh**
Permanent Representative of Djibouti
Representative of the President of the Council
of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level

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Annex to the letter dated 22 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States

On 19 November 2017, the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level convened for an extraordinary session at the request of Saudi Arabia. The session was chaired by Djibouti and attended by their excellencies the ministers for foreign affairs and ministers of the interior, the delegations of member States and the Secretary-General of the League.

The Council of the League

Having considered notes presented by Saudi Arabia and Bahrain,

Reaffirming Security Council resolution 2216 (2015),

Reaffirming Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming resolution No. 688 concerning Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, adopted at the Amman summit on 29 March 2017,

Reaffirming previous statements and resolutions adopted by the Council at the ministerial level on this topic, the most recent of which was resolution No. 8177 (148th ordinary session) dated 12 September 2017,

Reaffirming that relations between Arab States and the Islamic Republic of Iran should be based on the principle of good neighbourliness, rejection of the use of force or the threat thereof, and non-interference in the internal affairs of Arab States,

Having heard the briefing presented by the head of the Saudi Arabian delegation regarding the most recent act of aggression that was committed by militias affiliated with Iran (the Houthi-Saleh militias), namely, the firing of an Iranian-made ballistic missile from Yemeni territory,

Having heard the briefing presented by the head of the Bahraini delegation regarding the acts of terrorism and destruction that are being committed in his country, including, most recently, the bombing of oil pipelines by Iranian-supported terrorist groups,

Having heard the statements made by the heads of delegations and the Secretary-General,

Decides

1. To condemn strongly the firing by militias affiliated with Iran (the Houthi-Saleh militias) of an Iranian-made ballistic missile from Yemeni territory at the city of Riyadh and to consider that action to be a blatant act aggression against Saudi Arabian and a threat to Arab national security;

2. To reaffirm the legitimate right of Saudi Arabia to defend its territory pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and to support the measures that it takes, within the framework of international law, in response to Iranian violations;

3. To condemn all acts of terrorism committed by Iran in Bahrain, the most recent of which was the bombing of a Bahraini oil pipeline, and to consider that action to be an act of terrorism that was committed by an Iranian-backed group and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps;

4. To denounce and condemn ongoing interference in the internal affairs of Bahrain by Iran, which supports terrorism, trains terrorists, smuggles weapons and explosives, and incites sectarian strife; continues to make statements at various levels aimed at undermining security, order and stability; and has established terrorist groups in Bahrain that are funded and trained by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the terrorist Hizbullah of Lebanon, as such conduct is contrary to the principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in internal affairs set out in of the Charter of the United Nations and prescribed by international law;

5. To support all measures taken by Bahrain to counter terrorism and terrorist groups, with a view to safeguarding its security and stability;

6. To commend the efforts of the security agencies of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, which have succeeded in thwarting many terrorist plots and apprehending the members of the terrorist groups who were meant to carry out those plots and are supported by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the terrorist Hizbullah of Lebanon;

7. To condemn the ongoing occupation by Iran of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa); and to express its support for all peaceful means and measures adopted by the United Arab Emirates to restore its sovereignty over the islands which, according to international law, are under occupation;

8. To condemn the policy of the Government of Iran and its ongoing interference in Arab affairs, with a view to fuelling sectarian and religious conflicts; to underscore that it must refrain from supporting groups that fan such conflicts, particularly in the Arab States of the Gulf; to call on it to halt its support for and funding of militias and armed parties in Arab countries, including, in particular, its interventions in Yemen and its support for and arming of those militias that are loyal to it and hostile to the legitimate Government of Yemen; and to cease using Yemen as platform from which to launch missiles at its neighbours and threaten maritime navigation in the Bab al-Mandab Straits and the Red Sea, as such conduct has a detrimental effect on the security and stability of Yemen and its neighbouring States, as well as the entire region, and constitutes a clear violation of Security Council resolution 2216 (2015);

9. To hold the terrorist Hizbullah of Lebanon, which is a partner in the Government of that country, responsible for supporting terrorism and terrorist groups in Arab States by providing them with advanced weapons and ballistic missiles, and to reiterate that it must stop spreading extremism and sectarianism, desist from interfering in the internal affairs of States and refrain from providing any support for terrorism or terrorists in the region;

10. To condemn and deplore the inflammatory and hostile statements that Iranian officials continue to make against Arab States, and to call on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease making hostile statements or taking provocative actions, as that threatens regional security and stability;

11. To ban Iranian-funded satellite channels that broadcast from Arab satellites because they threaten Arab national security by inciting sectarian, religious and racial strife, and to request the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of this decision with the relevant parties;

12. To instruct the Group of Arab States in New York to contact the President of the Security Council and inform him that Iran has violated Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), which concerns that country's ballistic missile programme, and that, contrary to Iranian claims that the programme is of a defensive nature, this offensive programme presents a grave threat to Arab national security;

13. To instruct the Group of Arab States in New York to contact the President of the Security Council and inform him that Iran has violated Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) by arming terrorist militias in Yemen; that the Council of the League considers the firing of an Iranian-made ballistic missile from Yemeni territory at the city of Riyadh to be tantamount to an attack by Iran and a threat to Arab and international security and peace; and that the Security Council must fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security;

14. To continue to include an item entitled "Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States" on the agendas of Arab platforms of cooperation with international and regional groupings;

15. To request the Secretary-General of the League to monitor implementation of the present resolution and report to the Council at its next session on the measures taken in that regard.

(Resolution 8218 — extraordinary session — 19 November 2017)

– The Lebanese Republic is opposed to paragraphs 4, 6 and 9 of the resolution concerning Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States.
Lebanon opposes the reference to Hizbullah, which is described as a terrorist organization, and the reference to the fact that it is part of the Government.
This designation is unacceptable because it is not sanctioned by the United Nations and is contrary to the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, particularly in view of the distinction made between resistance and terrorism. Hizbullah is a key player in Lebanon and represents a large number of Lebanese. It also has substantial representation in Parliament, the ministries and the constitutional institutions of Lebanon. We support the other paragraphs of the resolution, although some of them infringe on the policy of disassociation adopted by the Lebanese Government. We condemn any intervention in the internal affairs of Arab States. We reiterate the policy of disassociation that the Lebanese Government has adopted and have requested that all references to Hizbullah should be deleted, so that we might be able to endorse the entire resolution without any reservations.
– The delegation of the Republic of Iraq expresses its reservation regarding paragraphs 8 and 9 of the resolution.